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Published in the interest of the people of Aberdeen Proving Ground

Post Shorts

Recycling schedule

The recycling pickup for Wednesday, June 25, is paper. Put items in paper bags, boxes or bundles and place them on the curb.

EA to conduct fire hydrant flow tests

The Fire and Emergency Services Division required annual fire hydrant flow testing in Family Housing on the Edgewood Area June 23, and is expected to be completed by July 28.

Testing will be conducted between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily.

Residents noticing rusty or cloudy water should let a faucet flow until the water runs clear.

Hydrant testing is required by Army Regulation 420-90.

Any questions can be directed to Inspector Thomas Stanford at 410-436-2377.

RAB meeting announced

The Installation Restoration Program will hold its next monthly Restoration Advisory Board meeting on June 26, 7 to 9:45 p.m., at the Edgewood Senior Center on Gateway Road.

The topics will include updates on the Other Edgewood Areas Study Area and the Lauderick Creek CWM Removal Action.

Board meetings are open to the public; all APG employees and citizens are invited.

For more information, call the Information Line at 410-272-8842 or 1-800-APG-9998.

Holiday hours at KUSAHC

Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic will observe a training holiday on July 3 with curtailed services.

The General Medicine (410-278-1812) and Pediatric (410-278-1717) clinics will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. by appoint-

KUSAHC will be closed on July 4.

The Saturday Walk-in Clinic will be open from 9 a.m. to noon.

Regular hours KUSAHC will resume on

Opportunity to earn money

U.S. Army Research Laboratory is conducting several studies on hearing. Paid listeners See SHORTS, page 7

Community bids farewell to Task Force Legend

Sonya P. Reynolds APG News

State and county representatives, community members, military and civilian personnel and contractors gathered to honor and say farewell to members of Task Force Legend for Operation

Noble Eagle II-Force Protection Augmentation in a ceremony at Aberdeen Proving Ground's Fanshaw Field, June 10.

Soldiers from Headquarters, Headquarters and Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 246th Field Artillery, Danville, Va.; Battery A of the 1st Battalion, 246th Field Artillery, Martinsville, Va.; Battery C of the 1st Battalion, 246th Field Artillery, South Boston, Va.; and Battery E of the 111th Field Artillery, Sandston, Va., stood at attention in the muddy fields to accept praises for a job well done.

Opening remarks were presented by Sgt. 1st. Class Marvin Hunter, 389th Army Band (AMC's Own), who gave a brief history of the service of the task force. He said the soldiers arrived at APG in August 2002 to replace the National Guardsmen and reservists of Noble Eagle I, adding that they arrived shortly after the 9-11 terrorist attacks.

"They were deployed to APG to assist in the maintenance of the force protection posture of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the protection and defense of the critical national assets located at APG," Hunter said.

Maj. Roger Hall, operations officer, 1st Battalion, 246th Field Artillery, was the commander of the troops during the ceremony. Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, hosted

He opened by thanking the task force for a job well done.

"You performed superbly. We demanded much of you and you more than met the challenges," Doesburg said. "Your performance is a credit to yourself, your units, the commonwealth of Virginia, the U.S. Army and our great nation."

See LEGEND, page 4



In a symbolic gesture to honor and bid farewell to soldiers who supported Aberdeen Proving Ground during Operation Noble Eagle II, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of Aberdeen Proving Ground and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command, left, presents a letter of appreciation to Task Force Legend Commander Lt. Col. Stephen Scott, representing units from the 246th and 111th Field Artillery Batteries from Virginia as Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, looks on. Each member of

Local recruits aid in APG Army birthday celebration

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson

Aberdeen Proving Ground celebrated the Army's 228th birthday with a ceremony honoring past, present and future soldiers at Top of the Bay, June

Highlighted by the traditional cake cutting, the ceremony included the swearing in of 15 Army recruits enrolled in the Bel Air Recruiting Station's Delayed Entry Program, including one member of the Maryland Army National Guard's Military Youth Corps Freestate ChalleNGe Academy.

With the recruits separated into three groups in front of the audience, Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command; Maj. Gen. Mitchell H. Stevenson, chief of Ordnance and commander of the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and Schools; and Brig. Gen. Marvin

McNamara, commander, U.S. Army Afghanistan, Bosnia, Kosovo, tensions mander, said he liked the idea right

istered oaths of enlistment and gave each a commander's coin.

Doesburg, sending a special welcome to recruits' parents and school principals, noted that 2003 also marks 30 years since the draft ended.

"Overnight, service shifted from most importantly, personal courage." one of obligation to one of choice, Doesburg said. "We still defend the interests of the U.S. and we defend it better today than in any other time in history."

He said the past year serves as a "shining example of what our Army is

Developmental Test Command, admin- in Korea, and ongoing battles with

remaining remnants of the Saddam Hussein regime Iraq.

"Our Army might be getting old, but it shows little signs of age," Doesburg

said. "We are built on core values and

As his fellow recruits gathered around, Raymond Fleming Jr., a 17vear old from Edgewood High School. helped Doesburg cut the Army birthday cake as APG Garrison Command Sgt. Maj. Elvis Irby assisted.

After the program, Staff Sgt. Keith all about," citing campaigns in Cline, Bel Air Recruiting Station com-

away after being approached by SBCCOM's Command Sgt. Maj. James A. Barkley.

"Anytime we can give young people the opportunity to see how we do things, this keeps them in the mindset of what it is they want to do," Cline

Barkley added that he got the idea from a ceremony at another installation and that the schools, parents, and recruiting command were enthusiastic when he approached them.

"What better way to celebrate than with older, current and future soldiers," Barkley said.

The Delayed Entry Personnel included Eric Thorpe, Maurice Thorpe, Julie Horney, Raymond Fleming, Kathy Vasquez, Jackie Wilson, Timothy Roland, Heather Smith, Steven Jordan and Jamie Hollomond.

AFAP symposium draws suggestions for improvement from community

Story and photos by Yvonne Johnson

APG News Terms like 'work groups,' facilitators,'

'recorders,' and 'recommendations,' were tossed around with far more frequency than usual by dozens of Aberdeen Proving Ground employees, residents and service members who participated in the Army Family Action Plan Symposium held at Top of the Bay, June 9 to 11. Administered by Army Community Service

and Fred Posadas, AFAP program coordinator, the symposium consisting of discussion groups seeking to identify flaws in community services, analyze those of greatest concern, and submit viable recommendations for corrective measures to installation authorities.

"AFAP is a process that identifies issues of concern that affect APG and the Army community," Posadas said. "It gives everyone the chance to influence his or her own well-being and standard of living and may have an Armywide impact."

Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of APG and the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological See AFAP, page 11

Watch card

Do observe and report:

• Unusual or suspicious activity

or suspected surveillance. • Unusual questions or requests for information relating to capabilities, limitations, or operational information.

• Unusual vehicles operating in or around the installation.

• Unusual phone calls, mes-

sages, or e-mails.

• Unusual contacts on or off

• Unusual aerial activity near or

• Any possible compromise of sensitive information.

around installation.

Do not: · Discuss any aspect of military operations

planning. · Discuss military capabilities

or limitations. · Discuss force protection mea-

sures, capabilities, or posture.

· Disclose any information related to unit deployments.

Report any suspicious activity

immediately to DOD Police: Aberdeen Area 410-306-2222

Edgewood Area 410-436-2222 Off post in Maryland, call 1-800-492-TIPS (8477) Your call may save lives.

Heritage celebration exemplifies diversity



Meki's Tamura, a group from Baltimore, dances to the song 'Island of Tahi,' during the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month celebration at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center, May 13.

Story and photos by **Sonya P. Reynolds** APG News

Celebrating the Asian Pacific heritage, culture and accomplishments, close to 300 military and civilian personnel, family and friends attended the Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month Program sponsored by the U.S. Army Developmental Test Command, May 13, at the Aberdeen Proving Ground Recreation Center.

Celebrants were in the spirit of the occasion, clapping and dancing to the performances presented by Meki's Tamure, SEI Oriana and students from the 16th and 143rd Ordnance

Dance groups wore native costumes portraying the cultures of India, Vietnam, China, Korea and the Philippines.

Entertainers were audience friendly as they randomly pulled soldiers from their seats to take part in the celebration, themed 'Salute to Liberty.'

Soldiers standing by were not the least bit shy about climbing on stage to shake to the tunes of the Hawaiian music.

Maj. Arthur Kaff, attorney advisor, 151st Legal Support Organization, DTC, opened by

thanking all for attending. Followed by the introduction, Chaplain (Maj.) Stephen Russ, presented the invocation.

Kaff introduced Brig. Gen. Marvin McNamara, commander, DTC, who presented the welcoming remarks.

Thanking all who came out to support a people well worth the cause, McNamara said the event exemplified the diversity among Americans.

"The occasion was to reflect on America's rich diversity and learn more about people who have added much to the development of our great country," he said.

McNamara added that the observance reflects the heritage, culture and accomplishments of Asian-Pacific Americans offering examples of leaders who portray the purpose of heritage month.

"The chief of staff of the Army, General Eric Shinseki, has devoted more than 35 years of his life to America's defense," McNamara said.

See ASIAN, page 13

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WAC celebrates anniversary

Page 14

Mitchell House holds historic preservation event

Bonnie Powell

When is the next case lot sale? What time does my commissary open? Where can I get more coupons? The answers to those questions, and more, are at http://www.commissaries.com. Commissary customers will find their one-stop cyber information center is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year - and there is always something

"The Web site is there to help them save money," said Rick Brink, Web content editor for the Defense Commissary Agency.

"One thing we're often asked is why there aren't Internet coupons on our site. But there are. We may not be able to offer them ourselves, but customers can find links to commercial sites that offer commissary sales information, newsletters and downloadable coupons through the links page at http://www.commissaries.com," Brink said.

The number of coupons redeemed online or downloaded and used at "brick and mortar three years, with grocery coupons among the day ever at the Web site." most popular. For example, a link to

CoolSavings, one of the largest providers of coupons on the Internet, is brand new on the links

http://www.commissaries.com.

"If a business sells groceries in commissaries or has coupons of interest to our customers, all they need to do is provide a gateway page for commissary customers and we'll provide a text link to

their Web site," Brink said. "We want to do anything we can to encourage savings above and beyond the 30 percent savings we typically provide commissary shoppers." The DeCA Web site attracts heavy traffic and

experiences from two million to four million hits per month, according to Web master Corintha Russell.

"Average daily visits this year increased more than 20 percent by the end of March," she

stores" has increased dramatically over the last said. "In fact, March 28 was the most visited

"Store pages are the most visited areas of our Web site by far," Brink said.

"Customers can find commissary locations, hours, news about store events and other useful information about their commissary. They can even email the store. It's all right there at their fingertips - all they have to do is click."

The DeCA Web site also has the latest news releases about

what's happening at commissaries, and customers can contact the agency directly to ask questions, offer suggestions, send compliments and resolve issues through the Web site's comment feature. Customers can also access the shopping pages before they plan their commissary trips to find out what's on sale.

Another recent addition is a link to the "Commissary Gift Certificates" page, which allows anyone to purchase the certificates as a "gift of groceries" for military families and friends or to donate to charities that support the military. The gift certificates page has become the top-ranked specialty page with over \$1 million commissary gift certificates purchased or donated since October 2002.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates a worldwide chain of nearly 280 commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a five percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices - savings worth more than \$2,400 annually for a family of four. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

The grillin' season is here. . .'Come and get it'

Herb Greene

The acrid smoke wafting across the neighbor's fence; the sizzle and aroma of a thick steak hitting a hot grill; the sounds of laughter and delight as the backyard chef yells, "Come and get it!" These culinary

assaults on the senses are a dead give-

away that the grilling season is here. What to do?

Head to the commissary for charcoal, lighter fluid, paper plates, napkins, soft drinks, snacks and, of course, the great selection of meats, fish, poultry, fresh produce and other things to barbecue - all at 30 percent savings.

Don't have a grill? That's not a problem. At most installations, exchanges will have all types of grills for a couple of bucks to the considerably more expensive and impressive propane-powered, multi-level grill

with electronic ignition and a set of gauges that would stop a flight engineer in his tracks. Either way, it's about the food and the technique, not the hardware.

Don't know how to grill? Again, it's not a problem.

Just ask the gourmet chef next-door neighbor for some words of wisdom or check out a self-help book from a local library.

Grilling safety tips

- Place the grill outside at least ten feet away from the house and anything that can burn.
- When lighting charcoal briquettes using charcoal lighter fluid,

ranging from the small simple grill apply the fluid and let it soak in a minute or two. When using an electric charcoal starter, be certain to stand on dry ground before plugging

> use so place it where no one can touch it. NEVER, NEVER,

it in. It will be hot after

NEVER use gasoline to light charcoal. Prevent cross-cont-

amination of harmful bacteria by keeping raw meat separate from cooked meat. Do not use the same plate or utensils for raw and cooked meat.

• Cook hamburgers and other ground meats until they are well done and their centers are no longer pink. Because of potential serious bacteria contamination, the heyday of the juicy rare burger with a pink center is

- Experiment with sauces and marinades. Marinating or basting will add a deep, flavorful taste to meats. Be careful to avoid cross-contamination: Do not baste meat on the grill with marinade that was used on uncooked meat.
- Try grilling vegetables. Get unique taste sensations by grilling ordinary vegetables basted in sauces and sprinkled with dry herbs.
- Tenderize pork chops and chicken by microwaving them for a couple of minutes and soaking them in a barbecue sauce for about 30 minutes.
- Try grilling corn-on-the-cob. Wrap the ear of corn in foil along with a pat of butter and a touch of barbecue sauce. Place the corn on the grill for about seven to ten minutes.
 - Don't overcrowd the grill. The

foods will just steam and not cook properly.

• Prevent scorched food by extinguishing fire flare-ups with a clean spray bottle of water kept near the

Remember two things to ensure a safe cookout. The "danger zone" for growth of harmful bacteria is 40 degrees Fahrenheit to 140 degrees Fahrenheit, so keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot and use them within two hours or throw them out. Hand washing is a necessity for safe food preparation; wash hands thoroughly before handling food and frequently throughout the cooking process.

Armed with these tips, grillers can have a safe, successful, fun and delicious grilling season. Oh, and don't forget to invite the neighbors!

Food safety begins with grocery shopping

Jack Moye

Food-borne illness is always a subject of concern at the Defense Commissary Agency, especially during the hot months of summer. Keeping the family, loved ones and friends safe depends on the shopper.

No matter how carefully a food item is handled before purchased, if handled improperly, spoilage or contamination can occur. Making sure that this does not happen begins when shop-

Following these simple guidelines can reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

- Fresh meats and poultry may contaminate other grocery items. The best way to prevent this "cross-contamination" is to keep fresh meats and poultry separate from other food items.
- Place packages of fresh meat or poultry into plastic bags. Never place a package of meat or poultry in the grocery cart where it might drip on other food items.
- Most importantly, do not let packages of uncooked meat or poultry touch fresh produce or any other food that won't be cooked before eating.
- After taking uncooked meat or poultry items from the refrigerated or frozen food case in the supermarket, shoppers should cook, refrigerate, or freeze them within two hours. In warmer weather (from April through October, and especially in July and August) the time limit drops to one hour or less. Meat and poultry should be the last items picked up on the way to the cash reg-

- Handling precooked foods properly is also very important. If these are mishandled, a serious case of food-borne illness might
- Packaged, precooked foods should be purchased only if the package is completely undamaged - no tears, holes, or open corners. • Buy ready-to-eat refrigerated foods only if they are displayed
- in a refrigerated case and if they feel cold to the touch when medical food inspector in the commissary.
- Never purchase unpackaged precooked foods from a deli case where other foods are touching meat or poultry items.
- Deli workers should not lay food on the bare counter before putting it into a package.
- Purchase food products labeled "keep refrigerated" only if they are being stored in a refrigerated case.
- Purchase products only if the label sell-by, use-by or pull-by date has not expired. • Buy frozen products only if they seem to be completely
- frozen to the touch. • Do not purchase more refrigerated or frozen food than there
- is room to store at home. • In hot weather it is best to pack all refrigerated, frozen, or raw foods in an ice chest for the trip home. This is especially true if the time between leaving the store and arriving home will be
 - It is best if the grocery store is the shopper's last stop on the

way home. Remember, even short stops during hot weather may allow groceries to warm up to unsafe temperatures, leading to

spoilage and the possibility of food-borne illness. Shoppers observing unsanitary or unsafe conditions in the commissary should notify a manager. Report any damaged, open or unrefrigerated items. Inform the manager of any unsanitary conditions, past-due expiration dates or other problems. If this is done but the shopper is still dissatisfied, report the problem to the

By following these suggestions, shoppers might prevent the problem from going unnoticed and causing others to become ill.

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(Editor's note: Jack Move is a food safety and quality assurance specialist at the Defense Commissary Agency headquarters office in Fort Lee, Va.)

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For advertising matters, call Homestead Publishing, 410-838-4400. Send articles or information for publication to the APG Public Affairs Office, Building 2201, AMSSB-GIM-P, APG, MD 21005-5001; call the editor at 410-278-1150, DSN 298-1150; send a fax to 410-278-2570; or send e-mail to editor@usag.apg.army.mil.

Deadline for copy is Thursday at noon for the following Thursday's paper.

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Contract Graphic Designer and Web Site Designer	Diane Burrier
Web site	

PET OF THE WEEK



Love is the color of Midnight

Photo by YVONNE JOHNSON

This domestic shorthair female cat has bright green eyes and is spayed. With a warm and friendly disposition, Midnight would make a great companion or family pet. She and other cats, kittens and dogs are available for adoption at the Post Veterinary Treatment Facility. You do not have to be active-duty military to adopt a pet. For more information, stop by the VTF in building 2479, or call 410-278-4604.

Preventing coronary heart disease

Coronary heart disease is the most common form of heart disease. Each year, approximately seven million Americans suffer from CHD, making it the number one cause of death among men and women. In the U.S. alone, more than 500,000 men and women die from heart attacks caused by CHD annually. Cause

Atherosclerosis, the thickening of the inside walls of coronary arteries, causes CHD by narrowing the space through which blood can flow. This narrowing of the space in the artery causes a decrease in

off the supply of oxygen and nutrients to the heart.

Atherosclerosis occurs most frequently in people with high levels of cholesterol. This fat-like substance, found in the blood, circulates through the body and builds up on the walls of the arteries. The blockage caused by cholesterol slows blood flow and can even completely block the artery, creating a wall that blood cannot penetrate. When cholesterol levels are high, a greater portion of cholesterol is deposited on artery walls. **Symptoms**

blood flow and can even cut include chest pain or shortness of breath. Other symptoms include a feeling of heaviness, tightness, pain, burning, pressure or squeezing behind the breastbone, but it can also be felt in the arms, neck or jaw. Be aware that not all heart attacks include these symptoms, but anyone experiencing any of these symptoms, should seek medical help immediate-

Risk factors

Knowing the risk factors will help decrease the chances of CHD. Risk factors include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, smoking, obesity, Early symptoms of CHD physical inactivity, diabetes

and stress. Anyone at risk, access the Health Information should change to a diet low in Library (use Pin #208). saturated fat and cholesterol. For those overweight, losing a Health Services, Inc., the TRIfew pounds (or more) can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol, all risk factors in heart disease.

To get help

For more information, call the 24-hour Health Care Information Line, which is staffed by registered nurses who can help determine the non-emergency or self-care needed in the proper setting and can provide information on health issues. Call 1-800-308-3518 anytime, day or night to speak to a nurse or to

(Editor's note: Sierra Military CARE administrator for TRI-CARE Northeast, presents this information courtesy of the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute.)

Mirst Waptist Church of Aberdeen

Runday School Sunday Worship 11:00 am 4 000pm Xiscipleship Training 430p.m. /Veidmesday

• Youth Ministry Teams • SBC Children's Mission Program (3 yrs. - 6th grade) Prayer Meeting

De Bary Johnson, Paster 219E, Balkin Share Shardaan, MD 21001 410-203-2015

Mosquito fogging starts soon

Abdul Sheik

Due to the increase in the amount of rain in the past months, water is standing everywhere on the installation and standing water is a haven for mosquitoes.

The Directorate of Installation Operations Pest Control Office, in coordination with the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine and Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic (Preventive Medicine), will be collecting data on the mosquito population in the Aberdeen and Edgewood areas from the mosquito light traps and gravid traps.

Fogging for mosquitoes in the housing

6 p.m. on Wednesdays, and in the Edgewood Area at 6 p.m. on Thursdays. The fogging will start near the end of June and continue until the mosquito count is below 21 female mosquitoes per trap. Fogging will not be done in rain or high winds, and swimming pool areas will not be fogged.

The field training exercise areas will be fogged on alternate Mondays if the weather permits. In the FTX area, the entomologist recommends that trainees use repellent to keep mosquitoes and other bugs

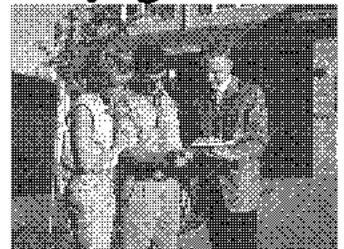
To ensure the health and safety of all residents, it is recommended that adults, areas will be held in the Aberdeen Area at children and pets be indoors when the fog

generator passes through their areas. Parents should explain to their children that the fog is a pesticide used for killing mosquitoes and annoying flying insects, and that under no circumstances should the truck be followed or the pesticide be

The pest control personnel will make every effort to avoid accidentally exposing residents to the fogging material. Residents are also reminded to keep their vehicles, if at all possible, away from the fogging route.

For more information, or to inform the office about a planned outdoor event on a fogging day, call 410-278-3303.

Mortgage and Home Buying Seminar



- * Alternative Paralmolog Cyclic

e (Minglen (MPG) Bei Ale (Migranei) Minne (Henre de Genez - 📆 -

Chicken Soup for the Military Wife's Soul

Charles Preston and Cindy Pedersen

Chicken Soup for the Military Wife's Soul is now accepting stories for an upcoming book celebrating life as a military wife. To submit a story, first visit: www.militarysoul.org for guidelines and chapter titles. Digital submissions are preferred and should be sent via Web site at www.militarysoul.org or e-mailed to stories@militarysoul.org. Send stories as a document attachment in MS Word. Use Times New Roman 12 pt. font with 1.5 line spacing. If Internet access is not available, send a SASE for guidelines and chapter titles to: Militarysoul Stories, P O Box 1501, Solana Beach, CA 92075. The deadline is August 31. If the author's original story is published, they will be paid \$300 upon publication of the story.

Guidelines for story submission

Contributors may submit one or more stories that meet the publisher's criteria. The stories must be true and should be 300 to 1200 words, and leave the reader with uplifted feelings. Type the author's name and contact information on the first page of the story. Also include a relative's permanent address in case of frequent moves. No anonymous or author unknown submissions will be considered.

Send only one copy of each submission.

Submissions are not returned, so do not send the original. Be sure to keep a copy.



Scotch Guard Protectant Pin Stripping Undercarriage Coating Window Etch Rust-proofing Alarm System

ALL-THE-EXTRAS Ø 499 ø 150 Q 325 Ø 400 ø 965 Ø 695 205 Full Detail Service TOTAL

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Army to award promotion points for civilian certifications

E.C. Starnes

When tank commanders pull their M1A-2 Abrams tanks into the Baghdad maintenance shop for a turbine engine tune-up, they may not see the familiar Automotive Service Excellence blue shield sign hanging in the front, but the Army mechanic that performs the work may be ASE certified.

For years, Army mechanics have individually earned ASE certifications as a method of self-improvement and professional development. Their only award for this achievement has been self-satisfaction. That's now changing.

Starting in October, the Army will begin awarding promotion points to automotive mechanics and electronics repairmen who earn civilian technical certifications directly related to their trade. Army mechanics can earn 10 points for each certification up to a maximum of 50 points. The Army currently promotes soldiers to junior grade noncommissioned officers using a scoring system that allows them to earn and compile points from such areas as education, awards, special achievements and per-

Currently, the Army's promotion system does not look at how proficient skilled technicians are in their job, but now, one branch in the Army is taking technical expertise very seriously.

The Army's Chief Enlisted Career Manager for automotive mechanics and mechanical maintenance technicians, Sgt. Maj. James Herrell said, "You know, we have some pretty exciting stuff we work on in the Army, but as a general rule, we do the same jobs civilians do. Yes, the Abrams Tank may have a turbine

engine, and yes, the armament system on a Bradley Fighting Vehicle includes thermal imagers, but if I recall, turbine engines are becoming quite popular in the power generation community, and I think I remember seeing a TV commercial of a Cadillac with a thermal imaging device on a heads-up display. Heck, every time I turn around I'm seeing a civilian version 'HUM-MER' drive by. So our position is the gap between high-tech military technology and civilian equipment is not as wide as one

Most of the technical fields affected by this new policy belong to the Army's Ordnance Corps, one of the Army's largest branches with nearly 118,000 soldiers.

"We consider ourselves the Army's tradesmen with 45 technically-related jobs including electronics technicians, automotive mechanics, explosives and munitions specialists, and allied trades such as welders, machinists, and HVAC repair specialists," Herrell said. "We've been working on this policy for quite some time now, and we were recently successful in convincing the Department of the Army that we should use the same measures of technical competency as our civilian counterparts and reward our soldiers who earn them."

National skill standards are an important component of quality management and customer satisfaction, and the U.S. Army has fully embraced these practices by adopting nationally recognized industry standards as a part of its personnel professional development models.

An example of the Army's commitment to professional credentialing is the Ordnance Corps' recent accreditation of its

welding course by the American Welding Society, the machinist course by the National Institute for Metalworking Skills, and electronics training by the Electronics Technician Association. Still in the works is the accreditation of all automotive training under ASE's Continuing Automotive Service Education program and the HVAC training under the Partnership For Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Accreditation.

"Professional credentialing of our soldiers is a win-win for everyone," Herrell said.

Young people considering the Army as a good place to learn a new technical skill can now attend nationally accredited training, earn professional certifications free of charge, and receive more rapid promotions because of it. [The Army pays for certifications up to \$2000 per certification.] The Army wins by getting more proficient technicians, and civilian industry wins by getting a more qualified technician when the soldier returns to civilian life.

"Consider that the next time you think about your Army. You can no longer think about us as an Army that only prosecutes war and destroys the enemy. You have to look upon your young soldiers not only as warriors, but also as true professionals in their trade that have attained the same level of technical expertise and competency as the civilian workforce. Awarding promotion points for civilian credentials is one of many things the Army is doing to ensure your Army remains the most professional organization in world history, and the Ordnance Corps is leading the way in that regard," Herrell said.

Secretary of the Army level award presented to local recipient



Dr. John M. Ferriter

SBCCOM

Recognized for his outstanding contributions to the Army, Dr. John M. Ferriter has been awarded the Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service.

The Secretary of the Army level award was bestowed on Ferriter for his contributions while serving as the director for Operations, Remediation and Restoration, Operations Enterprise with the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command.

Ferriter, the son of Margaret A. Ferriter of East Dennis, Mass., led the Army's execution of two significant environmental remediation/restoration projects in Colorado, bringing

sensitive environmental follow." issues to safe resolution while realizing a significant savings.

His efforts have assured the public that the Army is responsive, capable and car-

Ferriter demonstrates unparalleled leadership skills and vision serving as a model in exemplifying Army values.

"The Army Department of Defense are most fortunate to have a leader of the caliber and compassion of Dr. Ferriter," said Maj. Gen. John C. Doesburg, commander of SBCCOM. "He is truly a model for all to

For more information, contact the Public Affairs Office for the U.S. Army Research, Development and Engineering Command or call Mickey Morales at 410-436-4345. Headquartered in Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground. RDECOM is part of the U.S. Army Materiel Command.

For more information, visit Web site http://www.rdecom.armv.mil.

New Web site shows chem-bio research

The U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center launched its updated Web site, June 10, offering a look into the widely publicized field of chemical and biological research and development.

The Web site can be online viewed

http://www.ecbc.army.mil/.

Centered around ECBC's capabilities and state-of-theart facilities, the Web site highlights the organization's mission to provide products and services related to chemical and biological agent testing, the latest sampling and analysis techniques for contaminated areas, agent decontamination methods and personal protective equipment.

Evaluations of gas masks, clean air shelters, sampling kits and decontamination kits are featured on the Website as well as information on ECBC services such as applied research, testing, engineering, sampling and analysis.

In addition to ECBC's current research and development in chemical and biological defense and homeland security, the site also provides information on the center's unique 85-year history, experienced staff and community outreach initiatives.

The ECBC Web site has been recreated to offer easier navigation and access, more detailed information, and a lay out conducive to a variety of target audiences, such as first responders.



.egend

From front page

Doesburg reflected on experiences related to Task Force Legend.

"I get a lot of phone calls, most of them not good. But you helped lighten them," Doesburg said.

He told the soldiers to be sure and let their family and friends back home know about the great job they have done defending their country.

"You make me proud to be a soldier and proud to be an American," Doesburg said.

In honor of the troops, Doesburg presented the Noble Eagle coin to the commander of Task Force Legend, Lt. Col. Stephen Scott.

Brigid Smith, representing U.S. Senator Paul S. Sarbanes, and Cecelia Stepp, a Harford County Council member from District F, presented proclamation letters to Scott.

In closing, Doesburg thanked the families, employers and communities who supported the soldiers, adding that he hoped the experience has been a memorable one where lessons were learned.

He said the hard work and dedication by the soldiers made him proud.

"We cannot say it too many times. Thank you for your service to our nation. You make me proud to be a soldier and proud to be an American," Doesburg said.



Online Web site at www.apgnews.apg. army.mil. Archive issues dating back to 2001 are available in pdf. format.

Visit the APG News

Freestate ChalleNGe graduate shows the Army what he learned

U.S. ARMY PHOTO

Pfc Charles Stogner, marching to the side of the unit, leads the way during a 143rd Ordnance Battalion drill and ceremony competition. The Freestate ChalleNGe Program graduate and his fellow soldiers from Company A took first

in the competition.

1st Lt. Frank DiMartini

A recent graduate of the Maryland Army National Guard's Freestate ChalleNGe Program recently used his experiences from the past and present to help guide Company A, 143rd Ordnance Battalion to a winning performance in the quarterly drill and ceremony contest.

Pfc. Charles Stogner first came to Aberdeen Proving Ground when he entered the program after being expelled from his high school. He learned that he could get his GED through the program and already had a taste of the military through the Junior ROTC program.

He noted that the ChalleNGe Program taught him the basics at first, how to press a uniform and the standards for making a bunk. Stogner also learned from the leadership in the Freestate ChalleNGe that he would have to respect others in order for them to respect him. He enjoyed the discipline and the structure of the program and went on to earn his GED.

He learned of the benefits of the military from the cadre of Freestate and talked to a recruiter about joining the Army.

When it came down to a discussion about the future, Stogner said he knew he did not want to go back to minimum wage jobs. While in the ChalleNGe Program, he learned about the benefits of the military from his cadre.

Stogner entered into the Army looking for a better life, which would include more pay and

He says that basic training gave him everything he expected and more. He encountered the most stressful period of his life and had limited contact with family and friends back home. He said he liked the discipline in the training but wanted the chance to show others his leadership skills.

Since he has been in Advanced Individual Training, Stogner feels the environment has given him the chance not only to show off his leadership skills, but also to help other soldiers

when they need it.

This leadership ability caught the eyes of his drill sergeants who had him lead the platoon in the quarterly drill and ceremony competition held by the battalion command sergeant major.

Stogner took the competition as a chance to show off the moves he learned at both Freestate ChalleNGe and Junior ROTC. The first thing Stogner did was list all his marches and come up with a plan to have his platoon start and complete the competition in the same position.

He then had the task of teaching all his fellow soldiers these marches in time for the competition.

"Teaching privates drill and ceremony is hard, but the more they got motivated, the easier it got," Stogner said.

The end result was Company A taking first place in the competition.

However, Stogner wished he had "more time to show off a few more marches."

Stogner noted that he feels he is going to go far in the Army. He said he already has the experience from Freestate to help him "take charge of soldiers and to have self confidence to stand alone in front of soldiers and lead them to victory no matter what."

MRICD #2 takes volleyball post championship, 21-15; 21-10.

Yvonne Johnson APG News

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Chemical Defense didn't take any chances with intramural volleyball this season. The unit fielded two teams, both of which led the Edgewood Division in wins and one of which posted a two-game sweep over the Marine Corps Detachment in the finals to win the championship, May 22, 21-15; 21-10.

Norman Hopper led the MRICD squad that went undefeated through the postseason to post the second consecutive championship for the organization.

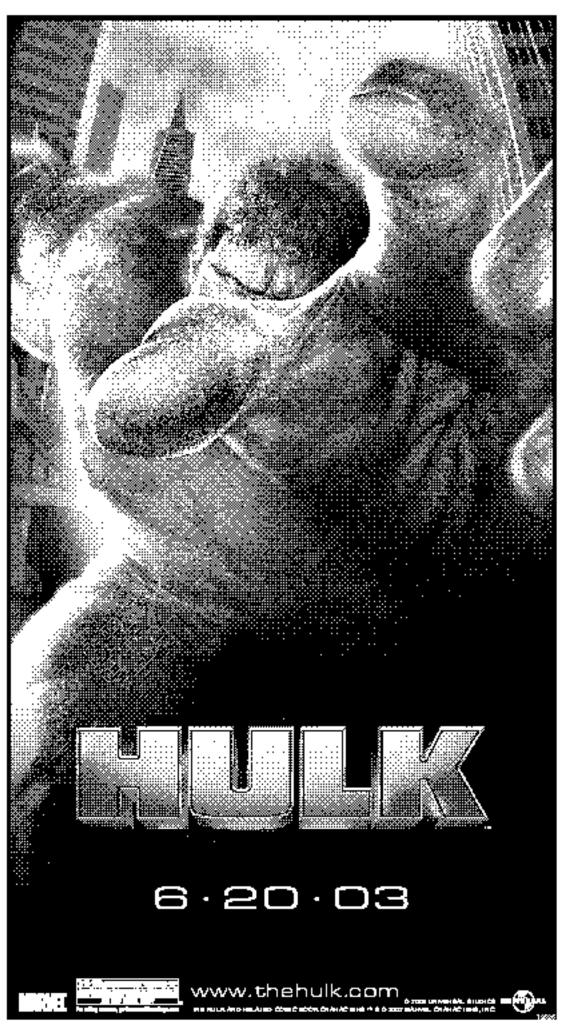
"We felt confident it would be us in the finals," Hopper said. "We just wish it had been against [MRICD] team number one."

He said the team members jelled throughout the season with each making up for any of the others' shortcomings.

"They worked hard and learned to play together well," Hopper said. "There's no single leader here; just a lot of teamwork."

The championship win moves MRICD #2 up to third place for the Commander's Cup point totals.

Check future issues of APG News for Commander's Cup point standings.





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Community Notes

SATURDAY JUNE 21 STEPPINGSTONE BLUES FESTIVAL

The Steppingstone Museum will host its annual summer blues festival 2 to 8 p.m. at the museum located in the Susquehanna State Park near Havre de Grace.

Live blues music will be provided by The B-more Blues Band, Liz Briones & The Spitfires, and Michael Hill's Blues Mob.

Tickets cost \$12 in advance and \$18 at the gate.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call 410-939-2299 or 888-419-1762, e-

mail steppingstonemuseum@msn.com or check out www.steppingstonemuseum.org. Credit cards are accepted.

SUNDAY JUNE 22 WOMEN'S DAY PROGRAM

The Women of Ames United Methodist Church invite the public to share in its annual Women's Day Worship Celebration at 10:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-838-

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The Edgewood Baptist Church, 422 Edgewood

Deep Creek Lake, MD

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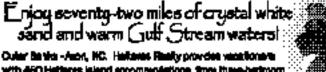
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To assist in the observance of Independence Day i we will have the following early deadines for the Wednesday July 2 edition of The Aegis, Thursday July 3 edition of AP 6 News, Friday, July 4 editions of The Aegis, Weekender & Recordand the Wednesday July Section

EARLY

The Aegis, Wednesday, July 2nd Edition Business Real Estate, PPT+ Wednesday June 25 + 12 noon A, Sports - Thursday June 26 + 4PM Legals-Thursday June 26 * 12 noon ClassifiedDisplay - Friday, June 27 + 4 PM ClassifiedLiners-Monda, June 30 + 10 AM

The Aegis, Friday July 1th Edition PPT, Auto MarkstPlace - Friday, June 27 + 4 PM A, Sports - Monday, June 30 + 4 PM Legals-Monta, June 30 + 12 noon ClassifiedDisplay - Monday, June 30 + 4 PM ClassifiedLiners-Wednesday, July 2 + 10 JUM

The Record, Friday, July 4th Edition All Sections - Monday, June 30 + 4 PM

APG News, July 4th Edition

All Sections - Friday, June 27 + 12 noon

Weelenders, July 4th Edition All Sections - Friday, June 27 + 4 PM

The Aegis, Wednesday, July 9th Edition Business Real Estate, PPT - Wednesday, July 2 + 12 noon

The Business Office and the Advertising Departments will be closed Friday July 4, 2003.

THE *** ÆGIS 410-838-4409 • 410-879-9592

Road, will hold Vacation Bible School for ages 4 through adult, 6:30 to 9 p.m., through June 26. This vear's theme is "The Great Kingdom Caper: Cracking the Character Code."

For more information or to register, call the church office at 410-676-5838.

MONDAY JUNE 23 SWEET ADELINES RECRUITING SINGERS

The Sweet Adelines Upper Chesapeake Chorus invite women singers to a special evening, 7 to 9 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Church, 2515 Churchville Road (across from Campus Hills Shopping Center). Anyone interested in singing with the chorus should call Dottie Vinopal, 410-836-6846, or email dottievinopal@aol.com.

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY JUNE 23 to 27 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. James A.M.E. Church Christian Religious Education Department, 615 Green Street, Havre de Grace, will host Vacation Bible School, 6:15 to 8:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The program includes bible study, music, arts and crafts for ages 5 to

The closing program will be held on June 27, 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 410-939-2267.

TUESDAY JUNE 24 APGFCU OFFERS HOME BUYING SEMINAR

Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union will offer a free Mortgage and Home Buying Seminar, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room at the APGFCU Operations Center in Edgewood, 1321 Pulaski

To reserve a space, call 410-272-4000 or 1-800-225-2555 ext. 5451.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25 HERP IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

The Anita C. Leight Estuary Center is sponsoring a program called Herp Identification Workshop, 6 to 9:00 p.m. for adults only. The workshop teaches how to take a scout troop, home school or family on a selfguided search for amphibians and reptiles of Harford County. The training will provide tips on using a field guide for herp identification, search techniques and how to collect data.

The fee for this program is \$10, and participants will receive a "Peterson's First Guide to Amphibians & Reptiles" and pizza dinner at the workshop.

Reservations are required and space is limited. For more information, direc-

BEECHT

tions, or to make a reservation, call the Estuary Center at 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000 extension 1688. The center is located just east of Edgewood at 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon.

WEDNESDAY THRU FRIDAY

JUNE 25 THRU 27 INSECT INSPECTORS SUMMER CAMP

The Anita C. Leight Estuary Center, 700 Otter Point Road, Abingdon, is accepting registration for Insect Inspectors Summer Camp, for ages 5 to 7. Choose Session I, 9 a.m. to noon, or Session II, 1 to 4 p.m. Discover the secret lives of incredible insects through a series of outdoor adventures, crafts, games, activities, and real animal investigations. The fee is \$50. Reservations are required and space is limited. For more information, directions, or to make a reservation, call the Estuary Center at 410-612-1688 or 410-879-2000, extension 1688.

SATURDAY JUNE 28 VFW POST 6054 R&B **BAND SMOKE**

Charlton-Miller VFW Post 6054 will present "A Night to Remember" with the R&B band SMOKE and hosted by radio personality "Cafe Linay" of 91.1 FM WHFC, 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. A hot and cold buffet, DJ and cash bar will be available. Dress to impress.

Donations of \$20 for nonmembers and \$15 for members will be accepted. For tickets and information, call 410-272-3444 or 410-688-3188.

SUNDAY JUNE 29 BASKET BINGO

The Pilottown Rod and Gun Club of Conowingo will sponsor a nonsmoking Basket Bingo at the American Legion Post 194, Rising Sun. Doors open at 2 p.m. and bingo will start at 3 p.m. Tickets cost \$10 and include 20 games on paper cards; extra cards cost \$5. Refreshments will be available for purchase. For more information, call 410-378-3338 or 410-658-5628.

FRIDAY JULY 4 KINGSVILLE PARADE

The Greater Kingsville Civic Association in cooperation with the Kingsville Volunteer Fire Company will sponsor the Kingsville 4th of July Parade at 10 a.m., rain or shine. This year's theme is "It's a Grand Old Flag." Opening ceremonies will be held at the judges viewing stand presided by Bruce McCubbin, master of ceremonies with Maj. Luanne Maddox from the 143rd Ordnance Battalion performing the national anthem with the John Carroll High School Band. Participating bands include the Westminster Municipal

MOVIES

ADMISSION: ADULTS \$3, CHILDREN \$1.50, building 3245 Aberdeen Boulevard. To verify listing, call 410-272-7520.



X2: X-MEN UNITED

Friday, June 20, 7p.m. Saturday, June 21, 9 p.m. Starring: Patrick Stewart, Hugh Jackman

The X-Men have opponents new and old to face this time around. Magneto is

back, but there is also a threat to Professor Xavier's school for mutants led by a human named Stryker, not to mention a vicious woman named Yuriko who has it in for Wolverine. (PG-13)

IDENTITY Saturday, June

21, 7 p.m. **FREE ADMISSION**

Starring: John Cusack, Amanda Peet



During an unrelenting rainstorm, with all roads washed out and all forms of communication dead at an isolated motel in rural Nevada, a group of people become stranded. Soon the waterlogged lodgers start dying in mysterious and brutal ways, and the increasingly dwindling number of survivors must discover the killer to prevent their own demises. (R)

band, John Carroll High School, Baltimore City Pipe Band, Baltimore Lutheran Dixie Land Band, Havre de Grace High School, Aberdeen and Fallston High schools along with Buttons the Clown, the 143rd Ordnance Battalion from APG, and many more.

COUNTRY HOE DOWN

Due to the July 4 holiday, the Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, will not hold country western dancing in July. For more information. call 410-272-8318.

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY JULY 7THRU AUGUST 1 ASSISTANT CAMP **COUNSELORS NEEDED**

Volunteers are needed to assist youth at summer camp, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Summer camp in Edgewood is sponsored by Family Tree. Training will be provided. For more information or to volunteer, call Volunteer Connection RSVP at 410-638-4444.

FRIDAY THRU SUNDAY **JULY 18TO 20, 25** TO 27 **HCC OFFERS MILITARY**

DISCOUNT The Phoenix Festival Theatre

wants you, a few good men and women, to attend A Few Good Men by Aaron Sorkin at a military discounted rate of \$6 (with proper identification). Harford Community College's PFT will present the play directed by Todd Starkey July 18 to 20 and 25 to 27 in the Chesapeake Theater located on campus.

Based on the movie of the same name starring Tom Cruise, Demi Moore, and

Jack Nicholson, the play depicts the trial of two Marines who are being tried for complicity in the death of a fellow Marine at Guantanamo Bay. Through a series of clever defense moves, the poignant drama puts the military mentality and the Marine code of honor on trial. (Adult language.)

Tickets for A Few Good Men are \$12 for adults, \$6 for patrons age 17 and younger, \$6 for seniors (Sundays only), and \$6 (with military identification). For more information or to order tickets, call the HCCTicket Office at 410-836-4211 or 410-879-8920, ext. 211. For TTY, call 410-836-4199. Harford Community College is located at Route 22 and Thomas Run Road in Bel Air.

SATURDAY JULY 26 HOWEBUYER'S WORKSHOP

Home Partnership, Inc., a nonprofit agency, will offer a free seminar on how to buy a home, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Wilson Community Center on 1024 Main Street in Darlington. A free lunch will be provided. Registrants must call 410-297-6700.

FRIDAY AUGUST 1 COUNTRY HOE DOWN

Due to summer vacations, the Harford County Country/Western Dance Association, a non-profit organization, will not hold country western dancing in August. It will resume Sept. 5 at the American Legion on Parke Street in Aberdeen. For more information, call 410-272-8318.

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should contact Paula Henry at 410-278-5848 or e-mail her at phenry@arl.army.mil Martha Dennison at 410-278e-mail mjdennis@arl.army.mil.

APG College Fair

APG will hold the 15th Annual College Fair, June 21, 4 to 6 p.m. at the Aberdeen Area Recreation Center.

Anyone interested in furthering their education through resident, extended learning or distance learning courses should attend.

Veterans Administration, Green-to-Gold, AARTS/SMART Transcript -American Council Education (ACE), and Troopsto-Teachers representatives will be on hand to answer questions as well as representatives from 24 organizations.

For more information, call the Education Center at 410-278-3515/2481/2380.

Lonestar concert slated for Sept. 12

Aberdeen Proving Ground Welfare Morale, Recreation is hosting country western band Lonestar, with special guest Trace Adkins, at this year's summer concert on Sept. 12.

Tickets are on sale for \$20 per person in advance and \$25 at the gate.

Tickets can be purchased from the Hoyle Fitness Center, MWR Registration in building 3326, Ticketmaster, or at the **MWR** Web www.apg.mwr.com.

For more information, call Gwen Meadows, MWR marketing director, 410-278-4497.

Volunteers needed for country concert

Welfare and Recreation needs volunteers for the APG Miller Lite Army Concert Tour, Sept. 12, at Shine Sports Field.

Jobs include gate workers, ticket sellers, concession workers, sponsorship assistants, warehouse workers and photographers.

Licensed bus drivers and parking attendants are also

Volunteers must be 18 or older and available to work from 4 p.m. to midnight.

Staff T-shirts and training will be provided.

For more information about volunteering, contact Ruth Overbay, 410-278-9536, or email her at ruth.overbay@usag.apg.army.mil.

For general information, call 410-278-4907/4011, TTY 410-278-4110.

ACS hosts job interview class

The Army Community Employment Readiness Program will present a job interview class on June 24, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at Army Community Service, building 2754 Rodman Road, classroom #103.

The class will teach participants how to make a positive impression during an interview; answer questions effectively and ask questions that show interest.

Topics include types of interviews and interview do's and don'ts. An interview session will give participants an opportunity to practice what they learned.

For more information or to register, call Marilyn Howard, employment readiness manager at 410-278-9669. Seating is limited. Participants must register at ACS, building 2754.

Deafness and hard of hearing seminar

The APG Committee for the disabled will present Deafness and Hard of Hearing in Today's Society, June 26, 2 p.m., in the Osprey Room at the Gunpowder Club.

Fact of the Week

Tailpipe exhaust is not always the greatest source of vehicle emissions. Vapors from evaporating gasoline, or "evaporative emissions," can account for twothirds of the hydrocarbon emissions from gasoline-fueled vehicles on hot summer days.

> - Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Mobile

Guest speaker will be Yvonne M. Dunkle, director of the Maryland State Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

The entire APG community is invited to attend.

For more information, call Angela Cheek at 410-278-1140 or Judy Matthews at 410-278-1050.

Free medical billing class

The Army Community Service Employment Readiness Program will offer a free Medical Billing class, 1 to 4 p.m. every Monday, June 23 through July 28, in the Army Community Service class-

The class provides a fundamental understanding of medical insurance billing and the life cycle of an insurance claim in relation to the physician's practice.

Attendees must attend all sessions to get a certificate of completion from Harford Community College.

Topics include: introduction to claims, preparation and submission, overview of major insurance carriers, insurance and accounts receivable management, overview of the use of information system in the reimbursement process.

The class is open to all military family members with valid ID cards.

For more information, call Marilyn Howard, employment readiness manager, ACS, building 2754, 410-278-9669/7474. Anyone interested must register at the ACS build-

BEP presents **Juneteenth** celebration

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Black Employment Program will sponsor its first Juneteenth celebration June 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Festival Park in the City of Aberdeen.

Juneteenth is the oldest known celebration of the ending of slavery.

Guest speaker Catherine L. Short, founder and CEO of Delaware Community Connections, Inc., an organization focused on enriching today's self image with American history legacies for tomorrow's challenges and writes standards based educational programs and tours for the 21st century, will discuss the history of Juneteenth.

Local DJ TC will provide karaoke. and Entertainment will also include spiritual dancer(s).

Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

For more information, call Jackie Pitts, 410-436-2771.

ACS holds family groups picnic

Army Community Service will host a picnic for Parents Children Together, **Exceptional Family Members** and Waiting Families Support Groups, June 30, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Maryland Boulevard Picnic Area. Call Diana Hayes, PACT coordinator, 410-278-4372, to RSVP by

EA, AA communities to hold yard sales

The Aberdeen Area of APG will hold its community yard sale 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., June 21 and 22.

Rain date will be June 28

Participating housing areas include Patriot Village, Mobile

Home Park, New Chesapeake, Bayside Village, Plumb Point Loop and Hopkins Loop.

The Edgewood Area of APG will hold its community yard sale July 12 and 13.

Rain date will be July 19

Participating housing areas include Everette Road, Deer Run, Skippers Point, Clearview Drive, Chevron Drive and Austin Road.

The Community Life Mayoral Program sponsors the

Veterinary Clinic hours for June

The APG Veterinary Treatment Facility will hold clinics in June by appointment only on June 19, 9 to 11:30

On June 24 there will be a walk-in clinic (no appointment necessary) for immunizations/vaccinations only, noon to 6:30 p.m.

Clinics are authorized for use only by personnel authorized the use of a military medical treatment facility such as Kirk U.S. Army Health Clinic.

For safety, no children under 12 are permitted in the clinic, and all pets must be on a leash or in a carrier.

To schedule an appointment, call 410-278-3911 or

The Veterinary Treatment Facility currently has several cats and kittens for adoption. Anyone may adopt a pet. Call for more information.

APG Telephone Directory update

The Directorate Information Management is currently validating the garrison and tenant information in the Aberdeen Proving Ground Telephone Directory.

The purpose of this validation is to ensure that the Emergency Response System (911) has electronic access to

accurate information.n

DOIM representatives will be calling individual numbers to verify that the name, building, floor, and room number on record for the circuit are correct.

The Caller ID feature on telephones will display "APG TELE MGMT" for these authorized information re-

For more information, call Janet Brown, 410-306-1315.

EA chapel closes for renovations

The Edgewood Chapel will be closed for renovations through Nov. 30, but all programs will continue as usual.

Sunday masses will be held in the theater section of the Conference Center (across from the chapel).

masses Daily Eucharistic services will be held at the Gunpowder Club (formerly Officers Open

Mess). The staff offices will be moved to the Gunpowder Club and will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of

All telephone numbers will remain the same.

Father John Bauer will be available for counseling on Tuesday and Wednesday at his temporary office at the Gunpowder Club.

Beginning in September, CCD classes will be split between the Conference Center and the Gunpowder Club.

The only changes are that "Donut Sunday" will not be held during summer months and parish socials and CYOC meetings will be held in Aberdeen.

The remaining parish picnic will be held at CAPA Field on

For more information, call the EA Chapel at 410-436-

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Extended Registration Hours Saturday, June 21, 9am - 5pm and Sunday, June 22, 1pm - 5pm

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Special military scholarship available. To make your education more attainable, we akso offer a special scholarship to active duty military to cover most of your turbon. in addition, your military experience and education will be carefully assessed for college credit; erabling you to earn your degree in the fastest way possible:

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Morale, Recreation & Welfare

Activities

Bowling specials

The APG Bowling Center will have a Red Pin Special every Wednesday through Friday, 5 p.m. until closing starting June 4. For more information, call Dave Brewner at 410-278-4041 or e-mail him at dave.brewner@usag.apg.army.mil.

MYSTERY BOWL II has begun. Receive an entry form for each game bowled or for a purchase from the snack bar. There will be a drawing each Monday for the nine weeks for this promotion. Prizes will be on display at the Bowling Center. The winners of the nine weeks will be included in a drawing for a chance to win a resort vacation.

The more the facility is used by customers, the more chances of winning.

To sign up for any of the summer leagues, visit the center or call 410-278-4041.

Win a harley Davidson motorcycle

Miller Lite is hosting a promotion from June through August at the AA Recreation Center and APG Bowling Center. Receive a scratch off game piece for every food or beverage purchase. Scratch off three Miller Logos and get a chance to win great prizes. All winners will be entered to win the grand prize, a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Starting June 25, get three entry forms for every game bowled. Come out to the APG Bowling center and increase those chances of winning.

Brewner at 410-278-4041 or e-mail him at dave.brewner@usag.apg.army.mil or Joyce Founds at 410-278-2621 or e-mail her at joyce.founds@usag.apg.army.mil.

Jamboree in the hills

Take a trip to Wheeling, W.V., and enjoy a superbowl of country music. Admission to the Jamboree includes two nights at the Holiday Inn Express, buffet breakfast at the Cherokee Restaurant and coach transportation.

Some of the great singers scheduled include Brooks & Dunn, Marty Stuart, Ricky Van Shelton, Emerson Drive, Martina McBride, Rascal Flats, Cledus T. Judd, Blackhawk, Keith Urban, Carolyn Dawn Johnson, Jessica Andrews, Travis Tritt, Tracy Lawrence, Mark Chesnutt, Joe Diffie, Neal McCoy, Brad Paisley, Sara Evans, SheDaisy, George Jones and many more.

The trip is scheduled for July 18 to 20 and prices are \$439 for single, \$331 double, \$291 for triple, and \$271 for quad occupancy. A deposit of \$150 is due by June 21, with the final payment due on July 9.

For more information, call Earlene Allen at 410-278-3854 or e-mail earlene.allen@usag.apg.army.mil.

Outdoor Recreation specials

Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park is offering reduced rates on July 4, 1 to 8 p.m. Go-kart rides are only \$3, Mini For more information, call Dave Golf is only \$2, and receive two batting rized, \$55 all others.

cage tokens for only \$.50.

For more information, call Ed Delacruz at 410-278-4124 or e-mail him at ed.delacruz@usag.apg.army.mil.

Rent equipment from the Equipment Resource Center anytime on July 3 and return it anytime on July 7 and only pay for a two-day rental.

For more information about this special, contact Outdoor Recreation at 410-278-4124 or e-mail outdoor.recreation@usag.apg.army.mil.

MWR hosts Orioles batting

Orioles bullpen coach Elrod Hendricks and third base coach Tom Trebelhorn will conduct a batting clinic for children at the Chesapeake Challenge Amusement Park, July 19, 10 a.m. to noon.

For more information, call Charles Heinsohn, 410-278-3868

Atlantic City trip

Try your luck at the Taj Mahal, Sands, Bally's, or any of the other casinos on the boardwalk in Atlantic City, N.J., July 19, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Register by July 2. Cost is \$25 and includes a complimentary gift. For more information, call Stacie Umbarger at 410-278-3931 or e-mail her at stacie.umbarger@usag.apg.army.mil.

Cost is \$35 for patrons, \$45 for autho-

EA framer receives national certification



Photo by KELLY HILL Debbie Brooks-Harris cuts out pieces to go with a frame she is making for a customer.

Gwen Meadows

and Crafts Program is pleased to

announce that it now has two certified professional framers on staff.

Holly Shisler of the Edgewood Area Arts and Crafts Center was certified as a CPF in March of this year.

She joins Debbie Brooks-Harris of the Aberdeen Area who received her certification in 1999.

CPFs are a part of the Professional Picture Framers Association, of which both the Aberdeen and Edgewood area Arts and Crafts centers are members.

Achieving the CPF designation is a major accomplishment within the framing industry, as well as in the Army.

"I'm happy to share my skills with the APG community," Shisler said, adding that maintaining customer confidence makes it all worthwhile.

"Patrons enjoy framing but also take it seriously," Shisler said. "Now they know we take it seriously too."

The PPFA initiated the program in The Aberdeen Proving Ground Arts 1986 to raise the standards of the framing profession, improve education within the

industry, and recognize framers who prove, through written examination, acceptable knowledge of the established criteria.

APG is the only installation in the Army with two CPFs on staff.

This means that APG patrons have access to a framer at both centers who has demonstrated a high level of competence and has achieved the highest level of professional recognition within the industry.

It also ensures that quality customer service along with the latest products, techniques, and design theories are available in the APG program.

Be sure to check out framing and other classes offered at the AA/EA Arts and Craft Centers.

For more information, contact Brooks-Harris at 410-278-4207 or Shisler at 410-436-2153.

online at www.apgmwr.com.

For more information, con-

tact Holly Shisler at 410-436-

2153 or e-mail her at

holly.shisler@usag.apg.army.

LIBRARY BOOK CORNER

Operating hours of the Aberdeen Area Library, building 3320, are Saturday and Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m., and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. The Edgewood Area library is open Tuesday, 11:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. For information, call 410-436-3589.

The following is a list of some of the new books at the APG MWR libraries:



In the Company of Heroes by Michael

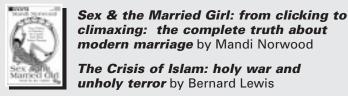
Durant was shot down and captured on Oct. 3, 1993 in Somalia, while piloting a U.S. Army Special Operations Blackhawk, in the battle depicted in Mark Bowden's best-selling book Black Hawk Down.



Creating Web Graphics for Dummies by Bud Smith

The Brother of Jesus: the dramatic story & meaning of the first archaeological link to Jesus & his family by Hershel Shanks





climaxing: the complete truth about modern marriage by Mandi Norwood The Crisis of Islam: holy war and

unholy terror by Bernard Lewis



Warning: psychiatry can be hazardous to your mental health by William Glasser

Digital Photography: special effects by Michael Freeman





Sanh by Edward Murphy

The Hill Fights: the first battle of Khe

The library's online catalog can be accessed at www.apgmwr.com/recreation/libraries.html.

Lonestar concert set for Sept. 12

Aberdeen Proving Ground Concert Tour, Sept. 12, at Morale, Welfare and Recreation is hosting country

western band Lonestar, with special guest Trace Adkins at this year's summer concert on Sept. 12.

Tickets are \$20 per person in advance, and

\$25 at the gate. Tickets can

be purchased from the Hoyle Fitness Center, MWR Registration in building 3326, Ticketmaster, or at the MWR Web site www.apg.mwr.com.

For more information, call Gwen Meadows, MWR marketing director, 410-278-4497.

Volunteers needed for country concert

Morale, Welfare and Recreation needs volunteers for the APG Miller Lite Army

Shine Sports Field. Jobs include gate workers,

ticket sellers, concession workers, sponsorship assistants, warehouse workers and photograp h e r s Licensed bus drivers and

parking attendants are also

Volunteers must be 18 or older and available to work from 4 p.m. to midnight. Staff T-shirts and training will be

provided. For more information about volunteering, contact Ruth Overbay, 410-278-9536,

ruth.overbay@usag.apg.army .mil. For general information, call 410-278-4907/4011, TTY 410-278-4110.

Arts and Crafts classes



Beginning quilting

Two three-hour classes, July 11 and 25, 1 to 4 p.m., will teach participants how to sew blocks together to make a Log Cabin quilt.

Class is held at the AA Recreation Center Ballroom, building 3326 for an individual cost of \$35 or \$100 for a includes supplies group rate. The group rate covers four people. Students pay for supplies separately.

Register by June 30 at MWR Registration, building 3326; call 410-278-4907, or online at **www.apgmwr.com**.

For more information, call Chris Lockhart at 410-278-3904 or e-mail her at chris.lockhart@usag.apg.army

Ceramics class

This basic ceramics class teaches the fundamentals of mold pouring, glazing and painting. Classes will be held July 12, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Edgewood Arts & Crafts building E-4440. The \$15 cost

To register, call or visit during hours of operation, or online at www.apgmwr.com.

For more information, call Holly Shisler at 410-436-2153 e-mail her holly.shisler@usag.apg.army. mil.

Stained glass

This beginning class teaches students how to make a sun catcher using the copper foil method.

Class date is June 21 and July 19, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Edgewood Arts & Crafts building E-4440. The \$25 fee includes supplies.

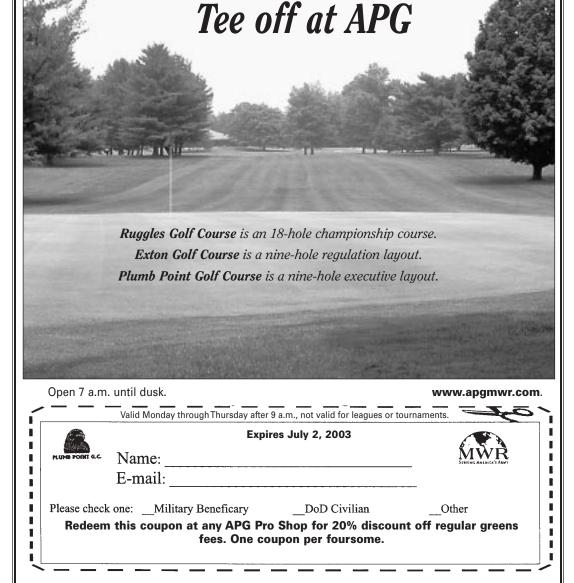
To register, call or visit during hours of operation, or

This week's mystery bowler

Photo by KELLY HILL

The Mystery Bowl winner for week two in the MWR hosted contest is Ruben Walton, an Army contractor with SI International.

For information on the contest, see Bowling specials in 'Activities' above.





WACVA chapter receives proclamation

Story and photo by Yvonne Johnson APG News

Women who have served and are serving in America's armed forces paused to observe the 61st anniversary of the Women's Army Corps with a remembrance luncheon at the Bayou Restaurant in Havre de Grace, May 24.

Aberdeen's Free State Chapter 70 Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association, led by acting president Connie Murphy and 2nd vice president Judy Fortier received more than just a speech from Harford County councilwoman Veronica (Roni) Chenowith, the guest speaker.

Chenowith presented the chapter with a Harford County proclamation signed by the council membership and County Executive James Harkins, to commemorate the occasion.

"I commend all of you and thank you all for what you have done for this country," Chenowith said as she presented the proclamation to retired 1st Sgt. Inez Sexton, past president and founder of the chapter.

tion the chapter received since it was formed," Sexton said as she accepted the proclamation on the chapter's behalf.

Chenowith spoke of her commitment to ensuring the sacrifices of past generations are remembered, "for those who gave so much for this country."

"We must ensure we tell our young people the importance of remembering and honoring our armed forces," Chenowith said.

She recalled a chapter luncheon she attended three years prior in which retired Brig. Gen. Evelyn Foote of Women in Military Service for America read the poem, "I Am An American Soldier."

"It so impressed me," Chenowith said before reading the poem for the audience and giving a loud "Hooah" after reading the part about the Women's Army Corps.

Fortier said the chapter was honored to have Chenowith as its guest speaker.

"Her record proves that this very busy lady always finds time

"This is the second proclama- to honor our veterans," Fortier said, adding that several of the chapter's charter members were

on hand for the occasion. Some charter members present included Mary Jones of Aberdeen, past chaplain and World War II veteran; Pearl Piaseczny of Edgewood, also a World War II veteran; and June Adcock of Havre de Grace, a Korean War and

Vietnam-era veteran. "It's great being a part of this organization," Jones said.

"We feel we are carrying on the name and aligning ourselves with the women of today so our name will be remembered."

Adcock, a retired first sergeant, who served in Europe with Sexton, said the war in Iraq increased the importance of, "those of us who are older."

"Our accomplishments have to be passed on to future generations," Adcock said. "It's good to know America shares that feeling."

She added that the chapter encourages newer veterans and those currently serving to join and

See WACVA, page 13

Farewell

From front page

Chemical Command, and Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG garrison and deputy installation commander, welcomed guests to the opening ceremonies, June 9. The guest speaker was Delores F. Johnson, director, Department of the Army Community and Family Support Center.

The facilitators and groups included Jeffrey Winston, Community Activities; Nancy Stevenson, Community Support; Lynn McNamara, Consumer Services; Judith Harris, Health Services and Ivan Mehosky, Youth Services.

Groups, led by facilitators, spent the second day forming lists of topics for discussion concerning needed improvements within their programs, narrowing those lists to the three most relevant topics, and then coming up with workable solutions for local commanders. Suggestions with a potential Army-wide impact are forwarded to DA for consideration.

Considerations and findings

Community Activities

Child Issue: Inadequate Development Center hours because of Physical Training requirements, long duty-day.

Extend Recommendation: hours to 5 a.m. to 6 p.m. Issue: Calculation of child care

fees Fees are based on total income to include Basic Allowance for Housing, which penalizes families

for incentive and locality pay. Recommendation: calculate income based on military base pay and applicable spouse income.

Issue: Direct information distribution inadequate because new family members have difficulty receiving information about military programs.

Recommendation: provide welcome packets to family members at ID card issue point that includes information about the military and installation programs and services. Assign this responsibility to Directorate of Community and Family Activities.

Community Support

Issue: Inadequate maintenance of family housing; considerations include safety and health hazards, morale, well being and inability to use facilities to full potential.

Recommendation: quarterly preventive maintenance checks; enforce fines/statement of charges for damage; make housing privatization a priority.

Issue: ID cards for mobilized reservists and National Guard members difficult due to distances between families and mobilized units which adversely affects morale and retention

Recommendation: authorize the use of certified mail, passport, or Department of Motor Vehicle photograph to obtain ID card; establish a mobile ID card service; obtain ID cards from armory, reserve, Military Entry Processing Station and recruiting stations.

Issue: Excessive speeding on post poses safety hazards to pedestrians and wildlife

Recommendation: increase police patrols and speeding fines; double fines in designated areas; ty class for repeat offenders; notify chain of command of repeat ited "no-cost" care, and eligibility. offenders.

Consumer Services

Issue: National Guard and reservists have limited commissary privileges. With expanded roles there is increased potential for long-term financial hardship.

Recommendation: Amend legislation to provide unlimited commissary privileges to reservists, National Guard, and gray-area retirees.

Issue: Insufficient food and beverage choices at APG include limited choices in the Edgewood Area and hampered by long lines at gate for those returning from lunch outside gate due to limited choices.

Recommendation: provide more food and beverage concessions at APG; create an Installation Commissary/AAFES **Advisory Council**

Issue: Commissary annex needed for EA residents. Due to lack of transportation to the Aberdeen Area, residents suffer a loss of benefits, have to shop at highpriced stores, some in unsafe area.

Recommendation: Establish an annex with meat, produce, and dry goods; renovate existing facility or use mobile/portable commissary; coordinate with DECA and Department of Defense.

Health Services

Issue:Transition of family members into military health care system inadequate due to family members being unaware of system access; lack of an effective transition process, and command and sponsors are being not held accountable.

Recommendation: Enforce command accountability, unit accountability, and manage cases individually Issue: TRICARE services

inconsistent due to lack of coordination between regions. Transitions between regions should be seamless.

Recommendation: Standard emergency care reporting; standard notification process for primary care manager; ensure communication links between TRI-CARE regions.

Issue: Change in retiree health install rumble strips; require safe- care benefits causes confusion about eligibility and benefits, lim

> Recommendation: Provide standard eligibility form at enlistment; establish manned benefits hotline with phone number on Leave and Earnings Statement and notification system about benefits.

Youth Services

Issue: Lack of space at teen/media center limits activities, causes overcrowding.

Recommendation: expand the facility or install modular facility.

Issue: Replicating Chesapeake Challenge-like facility in EA would draw more teens to Child and Youth Services programs and enhance family leisure opportuni-

Recommendation: Construct a theme park behind or near the EA Youth Center.

Issue: EA Youth Services in need of transportation. Currently, both centers share one bus, which limits teen trip opportunities.

Recommendation: Purchase a 15-passenger bus for the EA Youth Center.

DONATION

To participate in the Voluntary Leave Program, use forms OPM 630, Application to Become a Leave Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program; OPF 630-A, Request to Donate **Annual Leave to Leave Recipient Under** the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

(within agency); and OPM 630-B, Request to Donate Annual Leave to Leave **Recipient Under the Voluntary Leave** Transfer Program (outside agency). Employees leaving the program should contact Ronda McKinney, 410-278-8988, to complete a termination form.

Employees eligible for donations in the Voluntary Leave Transfer Program

Fay Walker Banker (hip replacement) Mildred T. Becker (surgery) Marian Bellis (fracture of left tibia) Robert J. Boonstoppel (coronary bypass surgery) Tammy Budkey Patricia Burcham (caring for father, Arthur Cummings, ATC retired) Jane E. Calahan

Patricia D. Choate Sharon Gary (care for family member) Patty Gibson Edgar W. Greer Fern L. Hitchcock (surgery) Melanie A. Hoffman (parasinusitis, fibromyalgia condition) Beverly King (caring

for husband) William Klein

Anita L Koller (care

and shoulder injury) William B. McLean (kidney failure) Calvin E. Peake Karen S Pense Mary E. Pettiway Linda M. D. Queen Tess Ramos (lung surgery) Michael Reynolds (care of mother)

for husband)

ing for father)

George Kudrna (car-

Angela R. Little (neck

Teresa L. Shores Jorja V. Thomas-Murcia Sandra M. Wachter (surgery) Charles Young (kidney and pancreas transplant) Ludilina O. Valarao (surgery) (brain tumor

removed)

Cheryl L. Roark

For information about donating annual leave, call Ronda McKinney at 410-278-8988 or fax 410-278-7652.

Preventing heat injuries

Heat injury occurs when the body can no longer maintain its normal temperature range. There are symptoms that commanders and soldiers should recognize. Troops are at greatest risk at the beginning of the heat season. Heat injury is always preventable by command intervention.

The human body maintains a narrow temperature range. When exposed to hot environments or increased heat loads (working in hot environments and/or wearing heavy equipment), the body will increase sweating to get rid of heat. Sweating cools the body through evaporation. The body can sweat up to two quarts or two liters per hour for short periods of time. Sweating will stop with continuing heat loads and inadequate fluid replacement. Eventually no more heat can dissipate through sweating and the core temperature of the body rises. This, along with a decreased blood in one's blood ves-

sels due to fluid losses (sweat, breathing, urination), increases the soldier's risk for the heat injury.

Heat illness has a range of signs and symptoms relating to underlying physical damage, from mild heat cramps to serious heat stroke.

Heat Cramps - painful contractions of the muscles of the legs, abdomen, or back that may occur after working in a hot environment. They may be related to salt depletion due to sweating. They can occur during work or 1-2 hours following the end of the work activity.

Heat Exhaustion - more serious form of the heat injury than heat cramps. Signs/symptoms of heat exhaustion include headache, fatigue, dizziness, chills, nausea, vomiting.

Heat Stroke - most serious form of heat injury and is a medical emergency. Signs are similar to heat exhaustion, but in addition an indiand possible unconsciousness. Heat stroke can lead to death due to elevated body temperature, metabolic disturbances, and kidney failure.

The human body can acclimatize



to working in hot environments. This process generally takes approximately two weeks of daily exposure to heat and adequate hydration. Acclimatization results in a more

vidual shows agitation, confusion, effective sweating process, where the sunscreen and proper wearing of unisoldier starts to sweat at a lower temperature and the sweat contains less salt. This results in earlier, more efficient cooling and increased blood volume that helps to maintain normal

body functions. Individual fluid requirements for each soldier are increased in hot environments even after acclimatization. A soldier cannot acclimate to water deprivation (reducing the water a soldier drinks). Commanders need to ensure

adequate water intake for all soldiers, by providing time to drink and urinate during work periods. Soldiers need to drink even if they do not feel thirsty. The thirst mechanism is not activated until the body is dehydrated to the point where the soldier is at least "a quart low". This corresponds to a liter deficit. Soldiers need to eat all meals

command influence. to replace salt lost when sweating. The prevention of sunburn by using

form while in the sun is necessary. Under extreme environmental conditions, a person can lose up to two quarts or two liters of water per hour from sweating. Therefore, soldiers can become progressively dehydrated unless given the chance to cool off and reduce body temperature. This is accomplished by providing adequate work/rest cycles and shade.

Heat injuries can mean the loss of productive soldiers and long-term permanent profiles, and can also lead to death or permanent disability. Heat injuries are prevented by educating soldiers and leaders, and through

For more information contact a local preventive medicine at 410-278-1991/1769 or visit Web site www.ATC.army.mil/conditions.html.

Planning to retire soon? Early preparation is essential

It is never too early to plan for retirement. This information is important for employees who plan to retire within the next 12 months (or sooner). Although it may not seem close enough, now is really the time to initiate the retirement process.

For Army employees, all retirements are processed through the Army Benefits Center-Civilian, or ABC-C. The ABC-C strongly suggests that employees initiate the retirement process by submitting an application 120 days in advance of their retirement date. This is especially true if employees are planning to retire during the upcoming months.

It should be noted that retirement is not an "electronic' process - employees must complete a retirement package and mail to the ABC-C. To help ensure a smooth transition into retirement, just follow the steps below.

One year in advance

To learn about the retirement process, visit the ABC-C Web site at https://www.abc.army.mil for the ABC-C's Retirement Frequently Asked Questions and the Retirement General Information. (Employees may also obtain this information from the ABC-C Fax Back system, see below). Additionally, visit the OPM Web site to review retirement publications on various topics. Suggested reading is "Thinking About Retirement," as well as many others located at Web CSRS Retirement Publications, http://www.opm.gov/retire/html/library/csrs.html and **FERS** Retirement Publications, http://www.opm.gov/retire/html/library/fers.html

Service/OPF review Is credit being received for all of the federal service performed? A few examples of service that employees include a temporary Christmas appointment with the Postal

Service, or working for the Census Bureau. To find out if a particular period of service is creditable or not, refer to Chapter 20 of the CSRS and FERS Handbook at http://www.opm.gov/asd/hod/pdf/C020.pdf.

Employees are encouraged to review their Official Personnel Folder at this time to verify that all of their service is documented in their file. Supervisors can arrange for employees to review their OPF at CPAC.

Beneficiary designations

When employees review their OPF, they should make note of beneficiary designations, if any, on file. Keep in mind that not all designations are retained in the OPF - FEGLI, FERS and Unpaid Compensation will be on file in the OPF, while CSRS and TSP

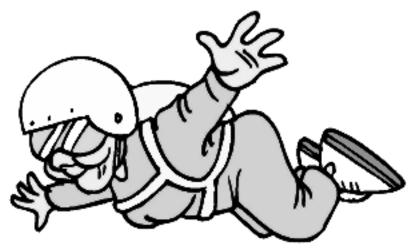
designations are on file with OPM and the TSP Service Office, respectively.

If employees wish to update their forms, visit https://www.abc.army.mil/Information/ABCRetirement/Forms/For **ms.asp** and click on "retirement forms." Beneficiary designations are not valid unless properly completed, witnessed, signed and dated by the employee.

Beneficiary Designation Guide.doc offers further explana-

Post-56 military deposit

If employees have not already paid their Post-56 military



may forget to claim upon hire, but may very well be creditable deposit, but wish to do so before they retire, employees should initiate the process at this time. See story on this page for more information on Post-56.

Personal statement of benefits (annuity estimate)

To obtain a personal statement, visit https://www.abc.army.mil, select Retirement, then Benefit Change. After logging into the system, click on Retirement, Personal Retirement Information, then Personal Statement of Benefits.

NOTE: Anyone with service under the following categories, should contact a counselor concerning their annuity estimate: present or past part-time work schedule, NAF service, elected to transfer to FERS, taken a refund of retirement contributions for a past period of service, have not paid a deposit for Post-56 military service or have not made a deposit for a period of nondeduction service (temporary service).

Six months in advance

To obtain all retirement-related forms, beneficiary forms, and helpful ABC-C Fact Sheets visit https://www.abc.army.mil/Information/ABCRetirement/Forms/Forms.asp, use the ABC-C Fax Back option. Select option number (6) from the main menu of the ABC-C phone system. Then, select the option to request an index of available documents. Review the list and select the desired retirement forms, fact sheets and general information documents that need to be faxed.

A few decisions are necessary when completing a retirement application. First, if eligible, and planning to carry the Federal Employees Group Life Insurance into retirement, make an election concerning the amount of coverage to carry past age 65 for the Basic Life, and Option B and Option C (if applicable). To learn more about carrying FEGLI into retirement, check out the FEGLI handbook at http://www.opm.gov/insure/life/handbook/Annuits3.htm#procedures%20for%20retiring%20employees.

Another decision concerns the survivor annuity election for a current and/or former spouse. If currently married and not planning to elect the maximum survivor benefit, the spouse must consent to the employee's election of a lesser annuity or no annuity. If there is a former spouse who was awarded a courtordered survivor benefit, employees must make their election

Employees who need to speak with a benefits counselor throughout the retirement process, should call the ABC-C at 1-877-276-9287 (toll-free from a touch tone telephone), Monday through Friday, from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Central Time).

Submitting an application

Within 90 to 120 days (or more) of an employee's retirement, their completed retirement application should be sent to the ABC-C. Employees should ensure that all of the required forms has been properly completed, signed and dated. Once the application has been submitted, employees should remind their supervisor to submit the Request for Personnel Action for employee's retirement as soon as possible.

For more information, contact ARMY BENEFITS CENTER-CIVILIAN, Southwest CPOC, 301 Marshall Avenue, Fort Riley, KS 66442-5004, visit https://www.abc.army.mil, or call 1-877-276-ARMY-CTR (1-877-276-9287), or TDD, 1-877-276-9833.

Receiving credit for military time

CPOC

Employees who have performed active duty military service, including active duty training, or periods of active duty that may have occurred during their civilian employment, and are already familiar with the background of Post-56, need to read the procedural info immediately below. Employees who are not familiar with Post-56, should see the background information further below. For questions regarding specific payment issues, contact the local DFAS Customer Service Representative.

Procedures to make a military deposit

Contact the Army Benefits Center-Civilian (ABC-C) at https://www.abc.army.mil or 1-877-276-9287 for information. Employees must complete a RI 20-97, Estimated Earnings During Military Service, LINK TO FORM http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/RI20-97.pdf and mail it to the appropriate military finance center identified below, with copies of DD Forms 214.

Where to mail Estimated Earnings **Worksheet (RI 20-97)?**

Army - DFAS-Indianapolis Center ATTN: DFAS-FJESR 8899 East 56th Street Indianapolis, IN 46249-0875 Phone: 1-888-PAY ARMY FAX: 317-510-5575

Navy - DFAS-Cleveland Center-FMAA 1240 East 9th Street Cleveland, OH 44199-2055 Phone: 216-522-6545 FAX: 216-522-

Air Force - DFAS-DE-FJY 6760 East Irvington Place Denver, CO 80279-3000

Phone: 303-676-7408 FAX: 303-676-6075 Marine Corps - DFAS-Kansas City Center/Code FCRAF 1500 E. 95th Street Kansas City, MO 64197-0001 Phone: 816-962-7652 FAX: 816-926-3129

Coast Guard - Commanding Officer (SES) Coast Guard Pay & Personnel Center 444 SE Quincy Street Topeka, KS 66683-3591 Phone: 785-339-3554 FAX: 785-339-3784

Public Health Service - Public Health Service Division of Commissioned Personnel Compensation Branch Parklawn Building, Room 4-50 5600 Fisher's Lane Rockville, MD 20857 Phone: 310-594-2963 FAX: 310-594-

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Department of Commerce Commissioned Personnel Office 11400 Rockville Pike, Room 105 Rockville,

* The completed form or letter showing the estimated earnings will be returned to the employee. Upon receipt of the employee's estimated earnings, complete the personal information on SF 2803, Application to Make Deposit or Redeposit (CSRS), or SF 3108, Application to Make Service Credit Payment (FERS), as applicable. These forms can be obtained from the links below, or the ABC-C FAX-Back System (Option 6 on the ABC-C http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdfimage/sf2803.pdf

CSRS http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdf_fill/sf3108.pdf

* Forward the application with the RI 20-97, and DD Form 214 to ABC-C at Department of the Army, Office of the Assistant Secretary, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Southwest Civilian Personnel Center, ATTN: ABC-C, 301

ABC-C will finalize the package and send to DFAS. Upon response from the DFAS office, employees must make arrangements with DFAS to pay the required deposit. The payroll office may ask employees to mail the request directly to DFAS Regional Payroll Center. The payroll office will be able to provide the address of your servicing DFAS center.

Even if employees are not ready to pay the deposit at this time, it is important to at least submit an application to request earnings from the military pay center. This type of request can take several months, but once received, employees will have required information if/when they are ready to make the deposit. If employees do not inquire until they are almost ready to leave federal service, it may impact their eligibility to retire or delay final adjudication of their annuity, as the deposit must be paid before they retire.

It is up to each employee to make an educated decision about whether or not to deposit service time. Everyone in this category should send for his or her earnings to at least learn the amount of deposit and have this info on file.

For more information about Post-56 Military Deposits read the below information and visit the ABC-C Web site at

https://www.abc.army.mil.

Definition of Post-56 military deposit A Post-56 military deposit is a deposit paid into the retirement fund, usually with interest, for the purpose of permitting full retirement credit for the military service that occurred after 1-1-57. There is an interest-free period that begins upon the date of hire or conversion to an appointment covered by federal retire-

Marshall Avenue, Fort Riley, KS 66442-5004. ment deductions and ends two years from that time. Employees who do not take action upon hire or conversion may miss out on the interest free period.

Background

A change to the CSRS law in 1982 impacted how military service is credited towards retirement.

If employees are covered under FERS, they must pay the post-56 deposit for their military service to be creditable towards eligibility for retirement and computation of their annuity. NOTE: If employees elected to transfer to FERS (not automatically placed in FERS) and their military service was performed before the transfer, the CSRS military deposit rules will apply to their deposit.

If employees are covered under CSRS (including CSRS Offset) AND first hired on or after 10-01-82, they must pay the post-56 deposit for their military service to be creditable towards eligibility for retirement and computation of their annuity.

If employees are covered under CSRS AND first hired on or before 09-30-82, their post-56 military service will not be used in computation of their CSRS annuity after age 62 if they are eligible for (or become eligible for) Social Security old-age benefits - "Catch 62" - and their annuity will be reduced. Keep in mind sometimes retirees, who have no plans to work again, find themselves working, even on a parttime basis, or, many folks who take advantage of an early-out find themselves back in the workplace.

Asian

From front page

"Command Sgt. Maj. Gil Canuela, has done a great deal to serve the Army during nearly 25 years, now as the command sergeant major of my higher headquarters, ATEC, [U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command] and previously as the command sergeant major of 'America's Range,' White Sands Missile Range.

He closed by encouraging all to learn as much about the Asian-Pacific culture as possible, adding that it will help complement the diversity that makes up the country.

"Thank you for coming out today to celebrate a great people and to learn how the fabric of their culture contributes to America. Celebrate and learn, but as important, have fun doing so over the time away from the office," McNamara said.

Kaff introduced the guest speaker Canuella as "a soldier's soldier.' Kaff said in today's Army, soldiers deserve outstanding leadership and that is what Conuela represents.

Conuela thanked all for attending and noted what an honor it was to be asked to speak for such an occasion.

In closing, Col. Mardi U. Mark, APG Garrison and deputy installation commander, talked about the many contributions made by Asian-Pacific Americans.

"They contribute much to our country, strengthening our society, our economy and our national character," Mark said. "They helped build and sustain our nation. Their rich heritage and cherished traditions have become part of American life."

Restaurants throughout the community participated in the event by donating an array of foods, specific to the Asian-Pacific culture.

VACVA

From page 11

learn more about their heritage while serving the needs of Harford County veterans.

"It's something to see how the younger generation handled itself during this war," Adcock said. "Like them, this chapter will survive. This bunch has such a strong feeling of togetherness. After all, we survived the depression."

To honor past and present members who served during the nation's conflicts, a wreath bearing the bright yellow and green colors of the WACVA was placed on the podium and treasurer chapter Lou Creighton of Bel Air read the names of the members who served during World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm. The wreath was presented along with those of other veteran organizations during the Memorial Day ceremony in Bel Air, May 26.

WACVA Chapter 70 wartime veterans

World War II

Susie Banks, Mary Bensinger, Georgia Gransky, Gloria Hanson, Florence Johnson, Mary E. Jones, Pearl Piaseczny, Helen Simar and Elida Wall

Korean War

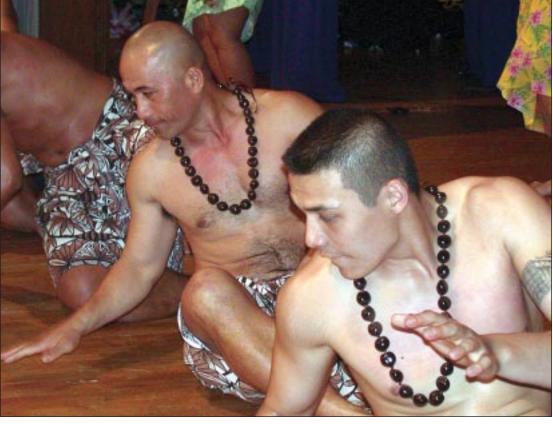
June Adcock, Evelyn Anderson, Susie Banks, Mae Begley, Helen Carr, Pat Fitzgerald, Inez Sexton and Maria Switzer

Vietnam

June Adcock, Stephanie Battles, Bernie Berntheizel, Lou Creighton, Frieda Dortch, Pat Fitzgerald, Judy Fortier, Betty Kruger, B.J. Kupp, Rose Matchett, Pam McDermott, Ellen McNiff, Connie Murphy, Rosina Poole, Inez Sexton, Sheila Smith and Maria Switzer.

Gulf War

Yvonne Johnson and Diane Kennedy



From left, Pvts. Mohetau Kasitati and Jereon Velghe perform a routine called Lava, Lava during the program.





During the Asian Pacific Heritage Month celebration, Spc. Camilla Gisa, of Sei Oriana dance group and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 16th Ordnance Battalion, performs a Hawaiian love dedication song, a traditional ceremonial dance used to send greetings to service members and loved ones overseas.

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Janet Brown, left, Directorate of Information Management, and Donna McClung, U.S. Army Aberdeen Test Center, look over a collection of Aberdeen Proving Ground photographs detailing the installation's various styles of architecture.



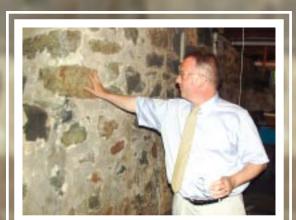
Deidre DeRoia, right, a member of the Mitchell House staff, pours a Victorian era fruit punch for Chris Schachte of the Aberdeen Fitness Center, on the porch of the Mitchell House during the museum's Historic Preservation Week observance.



A photograph of Edgewood Arsenal female employees testing gas masks was one of many loaned to the Historic Preservation display by Edgewood Area historian Jeff Smart.



Scones, chocolate candies and cupcakes were just some of the Victorian treats awaiting



In the basement of the Mitchell House, Mark Gallihue, curator, shows visitors the solid foundation made from Port Deposit granexpense was spared in the construction of this house, Gallihue said.

Mitchell house commemorates National Historic Preservation Week

Story and photos by

Yvonne Johnson APG News

Aberdeen Proving Ground's Mitchell House welcomed employees and residents to its National Historic Preservation Week observance in May.

Led by Mark Gallihue, Directorate of Public Works, visitors enjoyed historic displays of photographs and artifacts documenting the post history and helped themselves to Victorian treats provided by the staff.

The museum, located on the Ruggles Golf Course grounds, is operated by the Directorate of Safety, Health and Environment's Cultural Resources Division.

It houses artifacts and displays relating to three periods - the colonial period, the 19th Century, and post history that started in

"As an APG museum, the house tries to relate the history of the post," Gallihue said.

The Victorian-era snacks included chocolate, plain, and double-almond scones, brownie cups, lemon tea cookies, cranberry muffins, sandwiches, and various chocolate treats, and a fruit punch made from a 1912 recipe.

Gallihue credited the staff including Deidre DeRoia, Tracy Dunne, Carol Young, Rachel Swearingen and Beverly Browning with preparing the food.

"We wanted to provide period refreshments that add to the historic occasion," DeRoia said, adding that all refreshments were prepared on site in the museum kitchen.

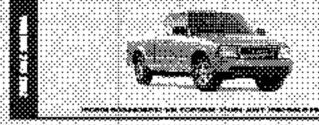
In addition, the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command in the Edgewood Area, loaned the museum a pictorial history display, "Edgewood Arsenal in the Early Years," that depicted women civilians at work on computers, in laboratories, in medicine and assembling gas masks.

The Mitchell House museum is free and open to the public. For information about museum hours and services, call 410-278-6756.



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